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13th October 2004

Examiner name: NGUYEN. SON T
US Patent & Trade Mark Office
P.O Box 1450
Alexandria
VA22313-1450

10/000,094 Polysaccharide mushroom compost supplements

Examiner Name NGUYEN. SON T

Dear Sir,

It has been brought to my attention that Messrs Money S Foods Inc (US); Lapolt. Dena L (US); and Dahlberg. Kurt.R (US) are making an application, Number WO2001US45374 20011204 to patent the concept of using carbohydrates to improve the performance of mushroom growth supplements.

This concept has been in use in Europe for many years. For the last 10 years on my own farm I have used mixtures of ground corn (starch) and soya bean meal – the carbohydrate component being protected by salts of carboxylic acids (US Patent No. 5 186 731). I have for the last 3 years also sold such supplements on the UK market as Organic Gold and Natural Gold.

The American based company Amycell marketed until recently a supplement product called Springboard that utilizes cellulose as a major component in the form of extracted palm kernel meal that is 16-17.5% crude fibre (polysaccharide - cellulose)

The same U.S.A. company for many years marketed a Promycel supplement containing substantial additions of soya bean hulls in order to make a cool running supplement. Soya hulls contain 35% of crude fibre (polysaccharide – cellulose).

Page 1

Page 2

Carrol (USP 3942969) specifies as protein source

- a. Extracted cotton seed meal**
- b. Extracted soya bean meal**
- c. Extracted peanut meal**

Cotton seed meal contains from 18.9% - 21% polysaccharide (starch and cellulose).

Extracted soya meal contains from 11% - 15% polysaccharide (starch and cellulose).

Extracted peanut meal contains some 14% of starch and cellulose.

For many years European growers have routinely used sterilized ground barley, wheat and corn (starch) to supplement Phase I II compost.

There are many examples of prior art in relation to the use of polysaccharides as a mushroom compost supplement and I would urge caution in the granting of this patent.

Yours sincerely



Frank Parker.